



# ZIMMER FELINE FOUNDATION

## for The Love of Cats Programs 2022 Annual Veterinary Report

### 2022 Programs at a Glance

	Voucher Spay/Neuter	Voucher Vet Care	Nonprofit Spay/Neuter	Total
2022	2,036	44	1,160	3,240
2010-2021	18,027	430	20,810	39,267
Total	20,063	474	21,970	42,507

### Helping Pet Cats Keep Forever Homes Forever



When we moved to Santa Fe in 2009, we considered opening a non-profit spay/neuter clinic. It had obvious advantages such as cost control and high-volume surgery potential. But instead we replicated our earlier Michigan program that simply gave low-income caregivers free spay/neuter vouchers to use at their local veterinary clinics.

We stayed with this approach because we could service a larger area and caregivers could get the surgeries done locally to get to know the vets in their community. And this turned out to be a great decision.

For when covid broke out in 2019, clinics faced a myriad of operational challenges, including staff loss, that impacted their surgery volume. Before covid, surgeries were scheduled in 2-3 weeks, but now they can take 2-3 months. This is longer than the cat gestation period, so it often results in unplanned litters of kittens joining the already overcrowded spay/neuter queue.

If we had worked through our own clinic, our spay/neuter volume may have been severely hampered. **Yet this year, in spite of all the challenges, our voucher program fixed more cats than in any other year.** Spreading the work over 28 clinics in 10 counties saved

us. When a local clinic was not available, our caregivers drove further to another clinic to use their vouchers.

In contrast, the nonprofit clinics we partner with through our *Community Cat Program* were not so fortunate and their 2022 reimbursed surgeries plummeted to roughly half of 2021 levels.

### Veterinary Participation

**If your clinic participates in our program, thank you.** Perpetual spraying, yowling and kitting often result in cats being abandoned outdoors or relinquished to shelters. *Not because the caregivers don't love them, but because they can't afford to fix them.* Your participation helps keep these cats in their homes.

**If your clinic doesn't participate but would like to, call us or visit our web site to register.** The more participating clinics, the more cats we can fix. Our current backlog of unused vouchers exceeds 1,000.

*Our goal has always been to provide our voucher cats with the same level of service paying customers' cats receive. And we know the price for high quality service has risen considerably over the last few years. So our 2023 spay/neuter package pricing (including pre-surgery exam, rabies vaccination, post-surgery pain meds and taxes) has been adjusted too.*

*To optimize the experience, we ask you to include our add-on services — FVRCP vaccination, microchip and visible parasite treatment. They're important and easy for us to pay but may be outside the caregiver's budget. And if you notice a minor health condition you can treat, let us know. We can often help with that cost too.*



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